

Arbor Heights PTSA - General Meeting Notes
Arbor Heights Elementary Lunchroom
October 18, 2012

In Attendance: Amy Christensen, John Christensen, Shirley Clough, Pam, Cobley, Christy Collins, Kathi Cronin, Brian Dunbar, Sherry Fullerton, Gail Glatzmeyer, Stacie Hart, Sue Holms, Jenaige Lane, Cheryl Lea, Corin Mochnick, Amanda Nokes, Lisa Olson, Rosslyn Shea, Rachel Vaughn, Lucy Weber, David Wilkie.

Call to Order - John

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Principal Report – Christy

BEX Thank You - Christy expressed thanks to the Arbor Heights community for their efforts communicating with the school board regarding the BEX Levy.

Vision and Hearing Screenings - The school nurse started vision and hearing screenings and is seeking volunteers for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to help with the screenings.

Treasurer Report – John/Ken

Credit Card Processing - John reported Shellie has been doing research on a credit card processing platform for the PTA so we can offer a credit card payment option at events. Ken reported that research was done on GoPayment, Square and a few other options. The typical rate is 2.7% per transaction. We will not charge extra to process credit cards. GoPayment was recommended due to their excellent customer service. Transactions can be done via computer or cell phone with an attached card reader. Square does not offer customer service via phone, only email, and there are issues regarding security. We don't plan to charge the customer additional fees to use credit cards. The purpose of offering a credit card processing platform is to reduce the number of checks that are processed. A motion was made and approved to adapt GoPayment as our credit card processing platform.

BEX Levy Update - Rosslyn

School Board Meeting Attendance - Rosslyn reported that Arbor Heights had ten speakers at the October 3rd school board meeting and six speakers at the October 17th meeting. One of our speakers ceded her spot to a STEM parent on the 17th. We are seeing the best of our community. We need to continue to be visible.

Press Coverage - Jen Boyer, a public relations professional and future Arbor Heights parent, has helped us to consolidate our message. Q13 news reporter James Lynch attended the school board meeting and Q13 aired a story on Arbor Heights on October 17th. Jen arranged for Seattle Times education reporter Linda Shaw to visit the school on October 15th. She received a tour led by Christy and was accompanied by a couple of parents. An article was published in the paper October 18th.

School Board Member Tours – School Board Member Sherry Carr toured the school the week of October 8th. School Board President Michael DeBell visited the school on October 17th for an hour and a half accompanied by Christy and some parents. Tracy Record from West Seattle Blog accompanied DeBell's visit. A nice article with pictures was posted on the blog on October 17th. At this point the district is saying

after the Levy passes they might look at alternative funding for Arbor Heights but there is no plan to move us up on the levy timeline.

Future Meetings – There will be an opportunity for public comment on October 24th from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. The school board votes on the proposed BEX Levy at their November 7th meeting. The proposed levy will go to the voters in February 2013.

Next Steps - What is now being proposed to present to the voters is a recommendation and is not locked in. It can be changed once the levy passed. It's important to encourage folks to vote for the Levy despite our feelings regarding the current list of proposed projects.

General Concerns About Building Condition

- Christy stated new concerns have arisen due to the installation of a water main on 105th. It has been very noisy and there is a significant new crack in the back hallway. Facilities has been made aware of it. Our concern is that we can't wait until 2018 for a rebuild as our school won't last that long. Christy encouraged us to continue to keep our message positive.
- There was a question about Pegi McAvoy's statement in the Seattle Times article that the district has already addressed our concerns. Her comments from the school board meeting regarding this can be seen online on the school board page of SeattleSchools.org.
- Lisa spoke to the school environmental safety representative and received a breakdown of organizations that do school inspections. If we have concerns we need to contact the King County Board of Health. This may allay people's fears regarding asbestos and other issues.
- Christy reported the Seattle Health Department does not have the resources to come out to the school. A parent made a complaint but SHD considers the issue resolved.
- Christy reported the American Lung Association came to the school to measure particulates and moisture in the air. The representative felt the timing of the visit would not produce accurate results due the recent fires in eastern Washington. She wants to come back after heavy rains to get a more accurate and typical reading. Risk management and facilities have said they are fine with us getting an independent report.
- It was reported that there has been no comprehensive health assessment at the school by any city, county or state agency. David stated there are supposed to be water sensors under rooms 16 and 17. Whether they are functioning is not known. He also stated the asbestos removal manual should be in the office. After work was done an independent assessment was made about air quality.
- Pam stated that assessments by outside agencies might result in our school being moved to an interim location prematurely despite not getting a new building prior to 2018 and that we need to be prepared for that eventuality. Christy responded that probably not all of our community is prepared for that and that many families have expressed that they prefer to be able to walk to their neighborhood school. A move would be very significant for everyone. STEM classrooms at the interim Boren site are better than what we have in our building. The district is trying to work through all the issues and is open to receiving the results of the reports.
- Sue Holms stated that none of the staff wants to move but they do need a better teaching environment. The Arbor Heights community has not always been assertive about our building issues in the past to avoid being closed. The problems are here whether or not we speak up.
- Lisa asked DeBell what the school board's contingency plan is if the levy doesn't pass. DeBell stated they have none. They would rework the levy and put it to voters the following year.

Communications Update - Lisa

Student Directory – The student directory is done. It's been sent to Tracy to distribute via School Messenger. All students are listed with more information appearing for those that returned forms.

New Website – The website is targeted to be live the end of October. There is a function to link the district calendar with your mobile calendar.

Communicator Editor – Lisa is still seeking an editor for the Communicator. The plan is that it won't be necessary to publish as often once the website is finished.

Facebook Page – The Facebook page is being updated with media coverage and the latest action steps for those who want to attend meetings and speak on behalf of Arbor Heights regarding the levy.

New Business

Seeking Volunteer Coordinator and Fundraising Chair – We are seeking to fill these positions. Amanda has completed some of the groundwork. Brian and Jessica Pappenfuss have offered to take over the carnival. Lisa stated the new website requires a contact person and phone number in order for events to be posted.

Hawkathon – Christy reported the Hawkathon will involve grades 3 through 5 only.

Auction – Lucy is seeking eight additional volunteers to work the night of the auction.

Family Support – Sue Holms reported we do not have a family support worker this year. A group of staff members is going to put something together to collect gift cards for families in need. Staff will make referrals for recipients. PTA help is being requested. An announcement will be made in the Communicator.

West Seattle Rotary – Christy reported the West Seattle Rotary has adopted Arbor Heights. They donated school supplies at the beginning of the year, including backpacks. Shirley shared about a holiday event in which the West Seattle Rotary shops with 100 children from families in need. Arbor Heights is on the slate for this year. The first Saturday of December participants receive breakfast and are matched with a shopper or two, often high school and college students. They take them shopping for clothes, shoes and other necessities, then meet up for pizza and a visit and picture with Santa.

No Giving Tree – There will be no giving tree this year. A suggestion was made that we could partner with a local business that hosts us on their tree. A parent would then pick up, wrap and deliver the gifts.

Speaker Suggestion - Lucy suggested a speaker for the December meeting, Opera Time from the Seattle Opera.

Event Announcements

Emergency Preparedness Event – Saturday October 20th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Family Photo Day – November 10th.

AHPTA Annual Auction - November 16th, 6:00 p.m.

Presentation – Terri Glaberson, Executive Director, Cool Moms

Cool Moms organizes families to live more sustainably through projects and advocacy.

Walking School Bus - A Department of Neighborhoods grant was written to implement walking school busses which get parents and neighbors involved in walking kids to school once or twice a week. The routes are designed to be a mile or less length with a couple of parents responsible for each route. Routes

have a start point and end point with signs designating stops along the way. The signs are provided by Cool Moms and posted by Seattle Department of Transportation. Parents can drop their children off at these stops. We need at least two more people to partner with Amy for one side of school and three more people to cover the other side. Other schools have designated Walking Wednesdays and Car-Free Fridays.

No-Idle Campaign – Involves a two-week assessment period of idle times during drop off and pick up. The kids do the assessments and collect the data, count cars, record idle times, assess the patterns, then information goes out to parents and signs go up. Than another week of assessment is done. Typically one teacher and one parent is involved in assessing the data. A pilot project in Greenwood Elementary reduced idling by 88%. Education and awareness is the key to the program's success. There are incentives for children to participate.

Bike to School - You can also think outside the car by starting a bike program. Bike to School month in May can kick it off to encourage folks to bike once or twice a week. Parent monitors are needed for that as well.

Pam thanked Teri for her help with Brian at the city to get us signs for our pick up and drop off zone and for new wheel stops. Amanda made the suggestion to involve the YMCA after-school care with pick-ups.

Presentation – JoAnn Jordan, Public Information Officer, Seattle Emergency Management

Jo Ann gave a wonderfully engaging presentation on disaster preparedness. A similar presentation will be made at the community event on Saturday.

Next Meeting

December 20, 6:00 p.m. There will be no general meeting in November.